

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

010910Z Aug 05

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TAIPEI 003198

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EAP/RSP/TC, EAP/PA, EAP/PD -
ROBERT PALLADINO
DEPARTMENT PASS AIT/WASHINGTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [TW](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: U.S.-CHINA-TAIWAN RELATIONS

1. Summary: The major Chinese-language Taipei dailies, in addition to covering local politics July 30-August 1, also carried extensive coverage of the Japan-Taiwan fishery talks, the aftermath of China's announcement regarding duty-free entry of Taiwan fruit, the outbreak of melioidosis in southern Taiwan, and a fire on a Taiwan ferry in southern Taiwan that killed four local people. With regard to U.S.-China-Taiwan relations, the pro-independence "Taiwan Daily" carried a news story on its page two July 31 that was topped with the headline: "John Tkacik criticized the Pan-Blue alliance for acting in favor of China and opposing the arms procurement [budget]." The newspaper also ran an editorial supporting Tkacik's remarks and cautioned U.S. officials stationed in Taiwan to pragmatically observe Taiwan's public opinion and not hold any unrealistic expectations about the Pan-Blue alliance. An editorial of the limited-circulation, conservative, pro-unification "China Post," on the other hand, criticized President Chen Shui-bian for showing no desire at all to talk with Beijing, regardless of the calls by some western leaders. The "Taiwan Daily" ran another editorial during this time period that contrasted the Irish Republican Army's announcement that it would renounce violence with China's continuation of warmongering behavior. The editorial said only when Beijing really renounces the use of force to resolve the "Taiwan issue" can both sides of the Taiwan Strait live in peace. End summary.

A) "U.S. Think Tank Scholars Have Seen Through the Pan-Blue Political Parties' Deviant Behaviors of `Joining Hands With China to Restrain Taiwan and Oppose the United States'"

The pro-independence "Taiwan Daily" [circulation: 150,000] commented in an editorial (8/1):

"John J. Tkacik, Jr., senior research fellow at the `Heritage Foundation,' a renowned U.S. think tank, was recently invited to testify before the U.S. House of Representatives. During his testimony, Tkacik criticized members of the Pan-Blue alliance in Taiwan for acting in favor of China and for deliberately blocking the arms procurement budget, and he suggested that the U.S. government cut ties with the pro-China Pan-Blue people in Taiwan. .

"Pan-Blue political party leaders do not have to wait until they hear questions or criticism from the U.S. think tank scholars to realize that the Chinese government in Beijing is by no means a friendly or lovable country to Taiwan. They should also understand that a country that has aimed hundreds of missiles at Taiwan has already turned cross-Strait ties to a hostile state. The Pan-Blue political parties in Taiwan, in addition, have shown no intention at all to hide their attempt to `join hands with China to oppose the United States so as to restrain Taiwan' and have tried to lock Taiwan into the cage of `one China' by advocating the `both sides of the [Taiwan] Strait, one China' doctrine. Such acts and intentions of Pan-Blue members are naturally viewed by U.S. think tank scholars, who believe in democracy, as some sort of deviant behavior that they can neither understand nor forgive.

"No people of a democratic country that implements party politics will tolerate [having] the opposition parties in their country oppose their country's ideals and act in favor of the country's enemy. . The Pan-Blue parties are already scorned by those Taiwan people with a Taiwan-centered consciousness; how do they dare to think that they are entitled to seek support from democratic countries like the United States? The U.S. officials stationed in Taiwan should also pragmatically observe and understand Taiwan's public opinion and should no longer hold any unrealistic expectations about members of the pro-China Pan-Blue alliance. ."

B) "President Chen: A Minster No"

The conservative, pro-unification, English-language "China Post" [circulation: 30,000] noted in an editorial (8/1):

"Western leaders never tire of urging Beijing to talk to Taipei. Condoleezza Rice, U.S. secretary of state did so again earlier last month. Jose Manuel Barroso, new president of the European Commission, followed suit a little later when he met Chinese President Hu Jintao in Beijing. They want Hu to start dialogue with President Chen Shui-bian. They should save their breath, because Chen is a Mister No, albeit he, as an able defense lawyer, never says an outright 'no' to anybody, who disagrees with him. .

"We are sure that Washington by now knows full well President Chen does not want any government dialogue between Taipei and Beijing. If the United States were truly interested in such dialogue, which would be in the interests of all concerned, more pressure - truly very hard pressure - should be brought to bear on President Chen. In fact, Washington is capable of compelling him to go along.

"Friendly persuasion will never work to make President Chen agree to talk with his Chinese opposite number [sic]. And the United States should stop calling Beijing to start talking with the 'elected government' in Taipei and start tightening subtle screws on President Chen to accept the consensus of 1992."

C) "The Irish Republican Army Could Replace Military Action With Political Negotiations, Why Can't China? - Not Until the Beijing Government Really Abandons the Use of Force to Settle the So-Called 'Taiwan Problem,' Can Reciprocal Peace and Coexistence Be Created Through Equal Political Negotiations across the Taiwan Strait."

The pro-independence "Taiwan Daily" [circulation: 150,000] editorialized (7/30):

"The Irish Republican Army (IRA) made a major announcement yesterday . [It] said it will end the armed campaign, and ordered its members dump their weapons, cease all military operations, and seek the independent status of North Ireland through peaceful means. .

"If the Chinese authorities really cannot understand [the situation], nor follow the major trend in the international community, i.e. to adopt peaceful coexistence in place of military attacks, then it proves that the Chinese government is composed of another sort of force-loving terrorism. Taiwan, the United States, Japan, and other democratic countries should closely examine the militant essence of the Chinese authorities in order to be prepared; the Taiwan people should clearly understand the militant essence of the Chinese authorities in order to get rid of China's military threat."

PAAL